

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 160900Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9071

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USEUCOM (FOR POLAD)

USAREUR (FOR POLAD)

USAFE (FOR POLAD)

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: RHEINLAND-PFALZ AND SAARLAND FDP STATE COALITION INTENTIONS

1. SUMMARY: IN FORMAL DECLARATIONS ADOPTED LAST WEEKEND, SAARLAND FDP SAID IT WOULD SEEK COALITION WITH SPD, BUT RHEINLAND-PFALZ FDP STATED PREFERENCE FOR COALITION WITH CDU IF LATTER LOSES MAJORITY IN COMING PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT SPECIAL CONVENTIONS IN RHEINLAND-PFALZ JANUARY 11 AND SAARLAND JANUARY 12, FDP IN THESE TWO PROVINCES ADOPTED FORMAL STATEMENTS OF THEIR COALITION INTENTIONS FOLLOWING LANDTAG ELECTIONS TO BE HELD MARCH 9 AND MAY 4 RESPECTIVELY. TWO FDP ORGANIZATIONS TOOK OPPOSITE
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TACKS. RHEINLAND-PFALZ FDP DECIDED BY VOTE OF 118-85

(ONE ABSTENTION) TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION AGREED ON PREVIOUS DAY 11-9 BY PARTY'S EXECUTIVE BOARD TO SEEK COALITION WITH CDU, PROVIDED LATTER DOES NOT RETAIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AND MEETS SEVERAL POLICY STIPULATIONS WITH REGARD TO LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT AND BUNDESRAT AFFAIRS, NONE OF WHICH APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS OBSTACLE. SAAR FDP RESOLVED BY VOTE OF 212-36 (SEVEN ABSTENTIONS) ON JOINT EFFORT WITH SPD TO END TWO DECADES OF CDU RULE IN SAARLAND AND FORM NEW GOVERNMENT ON BONN MODEL. SAAR FDP EXECUTIVE BOARD HAD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR COALITION WITH SPD.

3. COMMENT: A. SAAR. ALTHOUGH SAAR FDP HAD PRO-FORMA MEETING WITH CDU LEADERS FEW DAYS BEFORE CONVENTION TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, PRO-SPD OUTCOME HAS BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED SINCE KLUMPP REAFFIRMED AS FDP CHAIRMAN. KLUMPP IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BECOME SAARBRUECKEN STADTVERBAND PRESIDENT ON CONDITION THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT COALITION WITH SPD. KLUMPP RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO BE TOP CANDIDATE IN LANDTAG ELECTION BUT INDICATED HE WOULD ONLY ACCEPT LANDTAG SEAT IF SPD/FDP FORMED COALITION GOVERNMENT (BECAUSE OF INCOMPATIBILITY LAW, HE COULD NOT OCCUPY BOTH POSITIONS.) INCIDENTALLY, AT SAAR CONVENTION DELEGATES, BY 107:105, VOTED TO INSERT IN THE COALITION STATEMENT THE WORD QUOTE ZUNAECHEST UNQUOTE (FIRST APPROACH THE SPD WITH REGARD TO COALITION TALKS AFTER THE ELECTION) AS IF TO SHOW THAT PARTY IS OPEN TO BOTH SIDES. KLUMPP STATED THAT FOR HIM ONLY COALITION WITH SPD IS IMAGINABLE.

B. RHEINLAND-PFALZ. DECISION MADE MORE DIFFICULT IN RHEINLAND-PFALZ BY RECENT CHILLY ATTITUDE TOWARD FDP BY CDU, BUT PRO-CDU TILT HAS BEEN EXPECTED SINCE KOHL'S FRIENDS FRIDERICH'S AND SCHOLL REGAINED CONTROL OF FDP LAST YEAR. KOHL HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID OFTEN THAT HE WOULD WELCOME FDP BACK INTO R-P GOVERNMENT WHETHER CDU RETAINED MAJORITY OR NOT. SINCE HESSEN AND BAVARIAN ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, HE HAS TAKEN INDIFFERENT OR UNFRIENDLY LINE TOWARD FDP, INCLUDING THREAT THAT R-P COALITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD DEPEND ON ADOPTION OF PRO-CDU POSITION BY FDP IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA. THIS CHANGE PRESUMABLY BASED ON HEIGHTENED CDU CONFIDENCE AND BELIEF THAT EASIEST WAY FOR CDU TO ENSURE ABSOLUTE MAJORITIES IN 1975 LANDTAG ELECTIONS IS TO LET FDP FALL BEFORE FIVE PERCENT HURDLES. ANOTHER ELEMENT MAY BE THAT KOHL FEARS A PRO-CDU FDP COULD PULL AWAY JUST ENOUGH VOTES FROM THE CDU TO PREVENT HIM FROM SCORING A STRIKING VICTORY

MATCHING THAT OF STRAUSS AND THUS WEAKEN HIS POSITION
AS CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE.

4. RHEINLAND-PFALZ FDP WAS OBVIOUS CANDIDATE FOR
DISTINCTION OF FIRST FDP LAND ORGANIZATION TO BREAK
AWAY FROM SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION SINCE FORMATION OF
BONN MODEL IN 1969. LEFT WING GAINED CONTROL OF PARTY
ONLY TWO YEARS (1972-4) AND LACKED STRONG LEADERS.
KOHL'S BRAND OF CDU IS THE KIND THE FDP FINDS MOST
COMPATIBLE. LASTLY, RHEINLAND-PFALZ SPD OFFERS NO
REAL ALTERNATIVE, LACKING LEADERS, UNITY AND PROGRAM.
TO BE SURE, FDP LEADERS IN MAINZ LAST WEEKEND PLEDGED
CONTINUED LOYALTY TO BONN GOVERNMENT AND CRITICIZED
CDU, BUT COALITION OPTION IS THERE IF CDU NEEDS IT
AFTER MARCH 9, WHICH SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY ON PRESENT
FORM.HARLAN

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